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## No Carter Cover-Up

Your Jan. 15 cover story ("The Noriega Files," NATIONAL AFFAIRS) includes a misleading statement in the excerpt from Frederick Kempe's book: "Carter officials continued to play down and sometimes conceal [Manuel] Noriega's crimes." This is not only incorrect but inconsistent within the story itself. The story points out that Noriega was dropped from the CIA payroll, something we could not conceal from the intelligence committees of Congress. It then goes on to note that we briefed the Senate in enough detail on the nefarious activities of Noriega to make "lurid reading." Would there have been any point in leaving something out after that?

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